

THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL

WILMINGTON, N. C.
FRIDAY, JANUARY 7, 1869

CITY FINANCES.

Investigating Committee.

We hope the Committee appointed to investigate the City Finances will go vigorously to work. There is a strong belief among our citizens that there has been fraud or negligence. We have shown enough to justify such a belief, and the Treasurer and Board of Aldermen should aid this Committee in every possible manner. Their reputations are at stake.

We understand that the Treasurer alleges that his receipts from Market Rents, Retail Liquor Licenses, and probably Pound Fees, have been credited to Miscellaneous Receipts and Merchants' License Tax. This does not appear likely, when the entire Miscellaneous Receipts are only one thousand seven hundred and twenty-eight dollars, and there is no entry for taxes upon professions, amusements, billiard tables, dogs, double taxes, and the numerous other sources not enumerated in the Treasurer's account. Then, too, there is a deficiency of eight or ten thousand dollars in the receipts from Retailers, and if this has been credited to Merchants' License Tax, then the deficiency from this tax is increased to about fifteen thousand dollars, and we are confident our Merchants have experienced no falling off in the taxes collected upon them.

There is every incentive to urge the Committee to push their investigations vigorously forward.

Next Congressional Apportionment.

Next next is the month during which the national census will be taken. That census will exhibit the population of the country on the 30th of June, 1870. The matter of Congressional apportionment will be seriously affected by the adoption of the fifteenth amendment. Hitherto only three-fifths of the slaves were included in representation. Should the fifteenth amendment be adopted, of which there can be no rational doubt, the whole number of population will be taken as the basis of representation. The Chicago Tribune exhibits the population of each of the enumerations that have been made at the several decennial periods as follows:

Year.	Population.	Year.	Population.
1790.	3,929,827	1840.	12,866,020
1800.	5,308,337	1850.	23,194,572
1810.	7,239,814	1860.	31,433,321
1820.	9,638,191	1870.	37,956,983

The ratio of increase has varied from 32 1/2 to 36 1/2 per cent. in each decade, and upon this rate of increase the probable future of the population is thus estimated.

This estimate was made before the war, and before the change had taken place in the condition of the black population. From 1850 to 1860 the increase in the free negroes was 12 1/2 per cent., and in the negroes 22 per cent. How far the enfranchisement of the latter will disturb the ratio of increase of the aggregate of that population has yet to be shown.

It will be safe to place our population under the next census at 40,000,000, which would give 399 members to the House of Representatives. The ratio of representation would thus be for the succeeding decade one member for each 133,333 inhabitants. The new apportionment will effect a marked change in the relations of the Eastern and Western States, greatly strengthening the relative power of the latter. But the relative increase of Southern power will be still more marked.

The Chicago Tribune, the leading organ of Western interests, says that "the question has already become of vital importance whether that transfer of power shall take effect in the new Congress which will meet in March, 1871, or be postponed two years later." This question has been temporarily postponed by Congress, but the Western members, it is thought, will push strenuously for such an arrangement as will permit their section to choose the whole number of representatives to which they may be entitled under the approaching census. The following table, exhibiting the present and an approximate estimate of the future representation in the several States, is extracted from the Tribune:

State.	Present.	Future.
New York.	35	35
Massachusetts.	11	11
Pennsylvania.	19	19
New Jersey.	11	11
Delaware.	1	1
Maryland.	6	6
Total N. E. and Middle States.	93	93

The Southern States will gain largely over their present representation. They will show probably as follows:

State.	Present.	Future.
Alabama.	7	7
Georgia.	7	7
Florida.	3	3
South Carolina.	7	7
North Carolina.	11	11
Virginia.	11	11
Mississippi.	7	7
Louisiana.	7	7
Texas.	11	11
Total S. States.	84	84

Or a total of 8,550,000, with 64 Representatives, against 50 as at present.

The Southwestern group of hitherto slave-holding States will exhibit:

State.	Present.	Future.
Tennessee.	7	7
Arkansas.	3	3
Missouri.	11	11
Illinois.	11	11
Indiana.	11	11
Ohio.	11	11
Michigan.	11	11
Iowa.	3	3
Wisconsin.	3	3
Minnesota.	3	3
Nebraska.	3	3
Kansas.	3	3
Colorado.	3	3
Idaho.	3	3
Montana.	3	3
Wyoming.	3	3
Utah.	3	3
Nevada.	3	3
Arizona.	3	3
California.	7	7
Oregon.	3	3
Washington.	3	3
Total W. States.	104	104

An aggregate of 11,800,000, entitling them to 80 Representatives, in place of 66 at present.

The Pacific States will probably be able to show a population of about 900,000, divided as follows:

California.	700,000
Nevada.	80,000
Oregon.	125,000

This will give them 7 Representatives in place of the 5 they have now.

Cape Fear Agricultural Association.

By a very decided majority of the small vote polled the city appropriation to the Cape Fear Agricultural Association has been defeated. We accept the result with regret mingled with satisfaction. The progress of the Association will be retarded for a year or two, but this vote relieves it of obligations which may have been difficult, certainly unpleasant, to have repaid, and freed it from alliances which might have become burdensome.

We fully appreciate the various influences which have brought about this result, and regret only those which gave the question a political turn. So far as it is personal to us, in retaliation for the exposures we have made in regard to the financial condition of the city under the management of Radicalism, we are proud of it, and accept it as a meritorious endorsement of our course. So far as it was caused by petty personal jealousies and disappointments, it excites our contempt. So far as the decision was influenced by an honest desire for retrenchment in city expenditures and the conviction that our financial condition did not warrant the appropriation, we honor it.

By an examination of the vote it will be seen that those who supported Martin also voted against Appropriation, for the two ran together in all the Wards, a few voters in each not voting upon the question. Under the influence of one or two white and black leaders the negroes voted almost unanimously against Appropriation. They had no interest in the decision except as to the benefits they would derive from the success of the Association, for with few exceptions, they pay little or no tax. Two-thirds of the money heretofore spent on the improvements of the Grounds have been paid to colored mechanics and laborers. Hundreds of these men, under the influence of others, voted against the city appropriation. The tax-paying minority asked permission of the non-tax-paying majority to aid the Association with their own means. This has been refused them. Men, white and black, opposed the appropriation upon pretended grounds of economy, who will insist upon paying double the amount to an army of street-sweepers, white-washers, messengers, janitors, and other hangers on of the Radical camp.

The success of the Cape Fear Agricultural Association is fully established. It will take some time to accomplish the objects and hopes of its friends. It is indebted for its present firm position to the liberality of the business men of this city, and to the encouragement of the enterprising farmers of this section, and we hope these also will be obligated for its future progress. We shall use every effort to have the disbursements of the Association, in all future improvements, given to the representatives of those who have been its friends. Regretting that its progress will be somewhat retarded, we are pleased that the Cape Fear Agricultural Association will owe its success entirely to the aid and labors of those who can appreciate its importance and will control its destinies.

Branch Railroads.

In directing attention to the views of our correspondent in regard to the proposed branch railroads to the Wilmington and Weldon Railroad, we must beg to differ from him. The officers of the main line do not propose to expend one cent of money, but merely offer to lease the branch after it is built. The fact that the Tarboro branch pays so well is the best evidence that President BRIDGES is correct, as a matter of profit to the Stockholders of his road, in making the offer. It has been demonstrated that the present branch pays more than six per cent., and if others can be built without cost to the Stockholders of the main stem, and leased with a profit, the Directors would be false to the best interests of the Stockholders if they did not encourage the building of these branches.

We think our correspondent is in error in supposing that two-thirds or one-half of the freight which this Wilson branch would bring to the road now reaches it. We should suppose much the larger part finds its way to the North through the ports of Newbern and Washington.

So far as the election of Governor Holden as a Director of the Wilmington and Weldon Railroad is concerned, we have nothing to say. As it was not a political question, and was desired by gentlemen holding a majority of the stock, we thought our opposition should be expressed as a Stockholder and not as Editors. In business matters, where there is no sacrifice of principle, we can admit the virtue of policy. We know not for what special reason Governor Holden was honored with this election. He has shown himself hostile to our interests, especially in railroad matters. We can only express the hope that the sacrifice of feeling has been repaid, or will be, by substantial benefits.

The Radical Party—Its Policy.

We believe there is a deliberate purpose on the part of certain persons to keep the people of North Carolina in terror—a premeditated design to intimidate them and to inspire them with such a dread of the power of the Government and its officers as will prevent any opposition to the will of the dominant party. We believe that the purpose of the party all the while has been to accomplish the complete political subjugation of the South. From the surrender of the Confederate armies to the institution of the present government force was unblushingly used. President Johnson and Provisional Governor Holden did not hesitate to avow their intention of putting the State in the hands of only loyal men or to enforce their wishes at the point of the bayonet. But the people of the State, when asked to approve the acts of their conquerors, utterly refused to do so, and the work had to be done over again. Then followed the reconstruction measures, so-called, involving negro suffrage, military Governors, military tribunals, etc. The military Governors were simply partisan chiefs, clothed with extra-

ordinary powers, to enable them the better to carry out partisan schemes, and hesitated not to use actual force to effect any given purpose. By means of negro suffrage a civil Constitution was adopted. At the point of the bayonet North Carolina was restored to her Federal relations, and the present State government inaugurated. It was supposed and declared that the political surrender was as complete as had been that at Appomattox Court House.

By the change from a military to a civil government, however, was destroyed every pretext for the use of actual force. Bayonets could not be used by a Government whose constitution declared that "standing armies in time of peace are dangerous to liberty and ought not to be kept up," and that "the military should be kept under strict subordination to, and governed by, the civil power." While, therefore, the general purpose of political subjugation remained unchanged it became necessary to abandon the use of actual force to accomplish it. Instead thereof, resort has been had to threats and intimidation. Our people had been so long accustomed to despotic government that they had ceased to enquire whether any act of their rulers was constitutional or not and had come to think that the only material enquiry was whether the government intended for the thing to be done or to be left undone, and in accordance therewith silently to shape their course. This state of things could not exist long among a brave and intelligent people. We have begun to give evidence of a determination no longer to allow the officers of the Government to decide for us whether their acts be legal or illegal, and worse than all our people have begun to exercise their long disused right of free speech. To meet this change in the temper and conduct of our people and to counteract its fatal effects upon the dominant party, the Press and the Government, in all its departments, Executive, Legislative and Judicial, have united to put the people in terror and thereby to prevent them from exercising that freedom of speech and of action that is the inalienable right of North Carolinians. During the last Presidential campaign the threat of a disruption of the recently restored Federal relations with its resulting military governments was a favorite Radical argument. More recently the bare-faced attempts of the Standard, the "official organ" of the State and United States, in threatening the people of Orange; the action of the Courts in the assault upon the freedom of speech and in the recent attack upon the freedom of the Press; the acts of Governor Holden in sending militia to different points in the State, and his partisan, untruthful proclamation threatening the arbitrary exercise of powers for which there is not a shadow of any authority given him in the Constitution; the action of the Radical members of the Legislature upon the bill making it lawful to shoot down unoffending people upon the public highway, and more recently upon the bill proposing to give the Governor power to declare a county to be in a state of insurrection, all afford indisputable evidence that it is the purpose of the Radical party to terrify our people into silence.

This is a bold game and a desperate one, but it will be a losing one, for the reason that our people know their rights and dare to maintain them. The present Constitution of the State was imposed upon them against their will, but bad as it is in many respects, it is yet infinitely preferable to a military government, or to the arbitrary will of any man or of any irresponsible political party. It is now the law of the land, and as such we not only intend to obey it ourselves, but we intend to make other people obey it. Gov. Holden and the Legislature and all the other officers of the government will find that they cannot violate with impunity the Constitution they have sworn to obey.

We fought before out of the Union—we intend now to fight in the Union. It will be well for certain officials, who now, because of a partisan majority in the Legislature, and because of a partisan judiciary, feel safe from punishment, to examine the law and see whether or not their liability to impeachment and to indictment will cease with their terms of office. If it do not so cease, it will be well for them to bear in mind that ere long there will be an honest Legislature and a change in the Judiciary.

The reason for this course on the part of the Radicals is plain. They know that if free speech and free action and a free press are allowed, the respectability, the integrity, the intelligence, and the property of the State will at once resume control of its affairs, or as Judge Pearson expressed it in his celebrated letter, "the Conservative party, representing as it does the property and intelligence of the State, will take the guidance of affairs and all will be well."

The proper course to be pursued by our people is equally plain. Let the Constitution be our guide. Whenever a measure is proposed let us turn to the Constitution and see for ourselves if there be any warrant for it. If it be evident the proposed action is unlawful and the emergency so great, or the damage from delay so irreparable as to preclude an appeal to the courts, let us resist with all the means in our power. So long as we live under civil law, so long as the great war of HADRAES COURTES cannot be suspended, and so long as we have arms in our hands to defend the right of free speech and free action, there is not much to fear from Radicals or Radical legislation.

This is the true policy for us to adopt. It is the only one by which we can ever hope to rescue the State from the hands of the men who now control it. Our only hope, our only safety lies in a strict construction and scrupulous observance of the Constitution. If we can find our warrant in that, we can safely defy all comers. It may be that in defending our rights blood will be shed.

We sincerely hope the struggle now going on for the mastery in North Carolina will result peacefully. Whether it will so result we cannot tell. The decision does not rest with us. We have taken, and intend to maintain, at all hazards, our stand upon the Constitution and the laws made in pursuance thereof. If men shall be killed the responsibility will be upon those who violate, and not upon those who uphold, the Constitution and laws of the State. The usurpations of power now being attempted are too palpable and too dangerous to be submitted to in silence. The people in every community ought to speak out at once and in unmistakable tones.

It may excite the risible faculties of our tax payers to know that the Democrats and Conservatives of Newbern are preferring serious charges against the Radical administration of that city because they spent eighteen thousand dollars last year. However serious such an expense may be to the citizens of Newbern, we can hardly extend our sympathies in view of the fact that our municipal government cost us just nine times as much. We suppose our Newbern friends do not support so many policemen, street-sweepers, drivers and mules, white-washers; nor do their city officials build so many houses, own so many horses and deer, and spend eight and ten times their salaries every year. Poor fellows, their bill of expenses hardly entitles them to the dignity of a city.

Editors JOURNAL.—The proposition to build a branch road from Wilson to Greenville has assumed a serious aspect from the course of President Bridges, in offering for the Wilmington & Weldon Railroad to guarantee the stockholders of the branch an annual dividend of six per cent.

By what authority is the offer made by Mr. Bridges? Not from the stockholders, for they have not been consulted even, and at their late general meeting in November the subject of branch roads was referred, with the reports of the President and Superintendent, to a committee, who declared in their report that, however desirable to encourage the building of branch roads, the financial condition of the railroad precluded any idea of pecuniary aid; and in the face of the declaration, the President offers them this full dividend.

The road is heavily in debt and struggling under many difficulties, and unable to pay even the smallest dividend to its own stockholders.

There is already one branch road, which the officers say pays better than any other section of the road. Why not pay a dividend to that branch? Why establish a new set of preferred stockholders, to swallow up the earnings of the whole road, and its branch too?

Is it supposed that the new branch will be sufficiently profitable to pay the expenses and six per cent dividend? However glowing the accounts from interested parties, experience teaches differently, and is the only reliable authority.

The branch road will be about 40 miles through a rich agricultural country. Now make a liberal allowance for all the travel and freight that will come to the Road through this proposed branch, and then you may safely say that more than half, say two-thirds of this custom or profit already reaches the main Road at different points, though at additional cost to the owner, but not to the Road; and then you are called upon to pay this high premium for the small remainder.

It proposes a gross injustice to the old stockholder to give any preference to new stockholders over the old, and will lead to serious difficulties.

This leasing of railroads is a new move in North Carolina, inaugurated by Gov. Holden in the North Carolina Railroad, where his proxy holds the control, and it seems to herald his advent to the Directorship of the Wilmington & Weldon Railroad, (the property of which appointment the Press has been strangely silent, after denouncing him up to that time as an enemy to Wilmington and the Cape Fear section.)

In the present embarrassments and depression of the Wilmington & Weldon Railroad, it will be impossible to carry out any such proposition as President Bridges has offered the Wilson Branch. If attempted it will be met by many unpropitious circumstances. It needs the pecuniary embarrassment so apparent.

A STOCKHOLDER.

Common School System.

LILLINGTON, N. C., Jan. 3, 1870.
Dear Journal:—In looking over your news columns of a recent date I observed the following, taken from one of the New York dailies: "The system of common schools as now adapted in the United States, is, in the main, an imitation of the system decreed by the Convention which sentenced Louis XVI to the guillotine, abolished christianity and declared death and eternal sleep."

It would be difficult to find a greater perversion of history than is contained in the above paragraph. Every school boy knows that the success attending the revolution in this country inspired the masses in France with a desire to imitate the American colonist. The French revolution may have been precipitated by the events which transpired on American soil—but that the bloody scenes, or the extreme views which characterized that horrible historical drama, known as the Three Days of Terror—was in any manner the result of the teachings of the American revolution, no one with any pretensions to truth can claim. In the eyes of the historical student the destiny of France and the United States is widely different—as different as their past history and their peculiar institutions. The common school system of the United States was created by men who evinced throughout their lives the strongest love of religion and liberty and their most ardent supporters were to be found—as they may be found to-day—occupying the highest positions in our religious and educational institutions. It would be almost impossible to name a single prominent preacher or professor of religion in the country who did not in his time, and in the proper place, contribute his mite of praise to the system which we are now treading in the footsteps of.

MARRIAGES FOR THE YEAR.—In 1869 there were four hundred and ten marriage licenses issued by the Register of Deeds for this county—140 to white and 270 to colored couples. We append the proper table:

	Whites.	Blacks.	Total.
January.	19	23	42
February.	19	40	59
March.	13	40	53
April.	16	28	44
May.	8	16	24
June.	9	17	26
July.	00	12	12
August.	10	18	28
September.	8	15	23
October.	18	23	41
November.	14	23	37
December.	140	270	410

In 1868 there were 399 marriages—135 whites and 264 blacks.

MORTUARY STATISTICS.—Appended is a return of the deaths of this city during 1869, showing the number for each month as compiled from the reports of the Secretaries of Oakdale and Pine Forest Cemeteries. It shows that during that period there were three hundred and fourteen deaths, of which number one hundred and forty-seven were whites and one hundred sixty-seven blacks:

	Whites.	Blacks.	Total.
January.	12	10	22
February.	8	12	20
March.	12	19	31
April.	15	15	30
May.	14	19	33
June.	20	18	38
July.	3	15	18
August.	16	16	32
September.	22	20	42
October.	22	20	42
November.	15	7	22
December.	147	167	314

OUR MARKET DURING THE PAST YEAR.

We compile from the monthly reports handed in by the Clerk of the Market the following number of bees, hogs and sheep slaughtered for consumption in this market during 1869:

	Bees.	Hogs.	Sheep.
January.	150	125	68
February.	126	125	40
March.	142	134	123
April.	177	53	173
May.	180	8	540
June.	179	1	614
July.	231	1	320
August.	212	9	324
September.	233	45	207
October.	283	133	173
November.	238	317	71
December.	195	276	5
Total.	2,381	1,199	2,676

Besides the above there were 47 calves and 29 deer brought to market for consumption. In 1868 there was a much greater quantity of meat eaten. During that year 2,733 bees, 2,420 hogs and 3,135 sheep were slaughtered for consumption here.

EXPORT TABLE.—We publish this morning our tabular statement of the principal articles exported from this port for the year 1869, compiled from our daily reports and compared with the exports of 1868 and 1867. It is a highly important and useful table and one worthy of preservation.

From the Old North State.

Rather Strange.

It is known that Stokes, of the "Asheville News," has for some time been firing rather hot shot at the iniquitous and fraudulent transactions of the "ring" who are pretending to build the Western Division of the W. N. C. Railroad.

Now comes the strange part. A few days ago there appeared a man in our quiet midst calling himself Womble, who represented that he had lived in Wilmington, Fernandina, Florida, edited a paper in Thomasville, Ga., and been a railroad conductor and a great many other things. He hurriedly called on Stokes and said he had come to comply with his terms and wanted to take possession of the office at once. Stokes did not see the necessity of such hot haste and refused to comply with his (Womble's) request at the very moment, and intimated that he (Womble) was in the interest of the "ring." Womble stoutly denied this and feigned anger. By some means he leaked out to the ex-actor-railroad-conductor, etc., had no money and that he paid his stage fare, hotel bills and, &c., by one G. M. Roberts, so-called Treasurer of the Western division of the W. N. C. R. K., and his orders were honored.

We suppose that Womble's or somebody else's money will buy the "News and Farmer," and I think the ring will pay dearly to silence an honest man who has tried to do his duty. But does it calculate to silence the honest indignation of an honest mountain people or to freeze the ink in the pen of a scribbler who cannot be bought to the service of iniquity and corruption.

Sumac.

During this year four thousand one hundred tons of sumac have been gathered in Virginia. It sold for twenty dollars a ton, bringing eighty-two thousand dollars.

Now, if a wild sumac, gathered in the locks of fences, alongside of the roads and in worn-out old fields. Such a product cannot be of the highest grade. Nevertheless, American sumac, with these disadvantages, commands the best prices in the market.

Owing to the nature of this plant, it is free from vermin, and its yield is very uniform, being less injured by drought than almost anything else. One great argument, then, for raising it is the certainty of the crop.

As it is not cultivated, the gatherers of sumac have to run over a large tract of country to collect a ton. This destroys a very considerable portion of its value to the collector. If, however, it were planted close together, the raiser would be able to gather it at a very little expense, and the product would be far superior to the wild article. It would weigh much more, the chemical properties of the fruit would be far more active, it would be free from dirt, and would bring a much higher price than it does now.

Such is the great demand for sumac in this country, England and France, for manufacturing purposes, that it would always meet with the most rapid sale, and there can be no danger that a ready market could not be found for all that could be produced in Virginia.

We look upon the introduction of the regular cultivation of this plant as one of the greatest importance.—Norfolk Journal.

England has a prize fat boy weighing 730 pounds.

You can buy one thousand frogs for \$2 00 in Paris.

THE CITY ELECTION.—The election yesterday passed off more quiet than elections usually do, and was free from almost all excitement. One or two fights were threatened where parties were fired by whiskey, but no very flagrant breach of the peace occurred. The vote cast was very small—

not one-half of the registered strength of the city. Interest in the election seemed confined to one or two circles. The white vote cast was very small, the voting being confined principally to the blacks. It will be seen that the proposed donation to the Cape Fear Agricultural Association has been defeated by a majority of 522. For this we are sorry, as an effort to advance the general benefit of the city has been defeated by ignorant negroes (who would in common with others have derived much benefit from the measure if carried), acting under the influence of a few prejudiced leaders.

We append the vote in detail as obtained from the Inspectors of election after the official count had been made:

FIRST WARD.

FOR MAYOR.
Silas N. Martin.....401
Dr. W. W. Harris.....2

Number of votes cast.....403

Majority for Martin.....399

FOR ALDERMEN.

Owen Burney.....400
Jas. Wilson.....397
Anthony Howe.....394
Wm. H. Thurber.....395
Geo. B. French.....395
Geo. Chadbourn.....395
Sam'l Northrop.....97

FOR ASSISTANT ASSESSOR.

Hezekiah Reid.....245
Chas. Mallatt.....23
Scattering.....14

For Donation to C. F. Agric'l Association.....297

SECOND WARD.

FOR MAYOR.
Silas N. Martin.....363
Dr. W. W. Harris.....126

Number of votes cast.....489

Majority for Martin.....351

FOR ALDERMEN.

Owen Burney.....407
Jas. Wilson.....390
Anthony Howe.....368
Wm. H. Thurber.....360
Geo. B. French.....368
Geo. Chadbourn.....368
Sam'l Northrop.....138